

Drought Tolerant Plant Examples

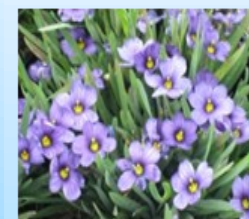
Cercis occidentalis - Western Redbud

A small tree that reaches about 15' tall. It blooms magenta pea-shaped flowers in spring that attract hummingbirds. This plant can be planted in various well-drained soil types and in sun or partial shade, but flowers do best in full sunlight.



Sisyrinchium bellum – Blue Eyed Grass

A native California perennial that has blue-green grass-like leaf blades that grow 6-12" tall. From late winter to late spring, clusters of small purple flowers with bright yellow centers bloom. Does well in full sun to partial shade and in any soil type. Needs little to no irrigation and goes dormant in summer.



Carpenteria californica – Bush Anemone

This evergreen shrub grows 6-8' tall and 3-5' wide, and does well in sun or light shade in well-drained soil with occasional irrigation. The dark glossy leaves can grow 4-5" long and are narrow with dense white hairs. Clusters of 3" wide white flowers with yellow stamens appear in late spring to early summer.



Mahonia aquifolium - Oregon Grape

A large, dense evergreen shrub that can reach 6-8' tall and 8-12' wide. This plant blooms yellow flowers in spring with deep purple berries that attract birds. It has large, glossy green leaves and can be planted in full sunlight or lightly shaded areas.



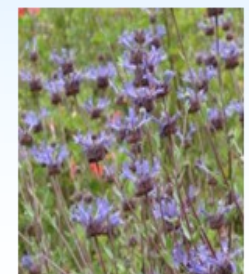
Pennisetum 'Little Bunny' – Dwarf Fountain Grass

An ornamental grass that grows 12" tall. It does best in full sun and in well drained soil. It has narrow leaves that arch at the tip. In summer, fluffy white bottle brush heads bloom. In fall, the leaves begin to turn yellow and then tan by the end of the season.



Salvia clevelandii/ leucophylla – Purple Sage

Purple sage grows 3-6' tall and wide, and blooms in late spring to early summer with clusters of blue-purple flowers. Does best in full sunlight with well drained soil and requires little to no irrigation. This species is attractive to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.



Arctostaphylos spp.- Manzanita

There are over forty species of Arctostaphylos in California. The species has small glossy deep green leaves, which stay green all year. It has smooth dark red bark with flowers that range from white to pink. Some species bloom mid-winter while others bloom mid spring. Species can range from 2-10' tall and wide. Does well in full sun or light shade, well-drained soils, and with little irrigation.



Muhlenbergia rigens – Deer Grass

Typically grows 3' tall and 5' wide with long, narrow leaves. In late summer, silver-gray flowers bloom that arch 2-3'. Does best in full sun or partial shade and tolerates regular to limited irrigation, but soil should be well drained. Attracts birds and butterflies.



Thymus serpyllum – Pink Chintz

Blooms in early spring and has salmon-pink flowers with fuzzy green leaves. Does best in full sun in well drained soil. It is one of the most tolerant thymes of dry conditions and is popular with butterflies and bees.



Myoporum parvifolium – Creeping Myoporum

This is a fast growing shrub that grows to about 2' tall and 15' wide. It has bright green leaves that grow close to the stem, and small white flowers which bloom in summer. Does best in full sun to light shade. This plant is rabbit proof and great for erosion control.



Festuca rubra – Point Joe Blue Fescue

A native California grass that can grow 6" tall clumping to 2' wide. The grass has chalky-blue blades and bloom wheat-colored flowers from spring to summer. Does well in full sun to partial shade in any soil with occasional irrigation. This grass is commonly used as a moderate to low water requiring lawn.



Mimulus spp. – Monkey Flower

A small shrub that grows 1-2' tall. It has green, glossy leaves and flowers that range from orange, red, pink, or yellow. Flowers are present nearly year round. This is a hardy plant that needs minimal watering once established and does well in full sun and partial shade in well-drained soils.



Iris douglasiana – Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris

This is a native California perennial that grows 2' tall and 3' wide. It has evergreen arching leaves and in spring will bloom lavender-blue to white flowers that are 1-2' tall. Grows well in full sun to lightly shaded areas with occasional watering.



Morgan Hill Civic Center Waterwise Demonstration Gardens

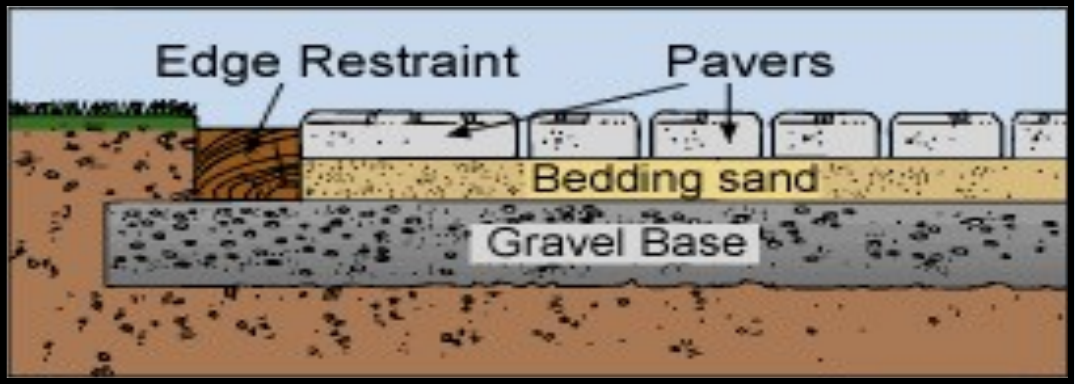
The Morgan Hill Demonstration Gardens display drought tolerant, California native plants. These waterwise plants help conserve water, improve local water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and have an aesthetically pleasing appearance. These natives can be located within diverse plant communities throughout California and are adaptable to our local climate.

The Demonstration Gardens also utilize compatible hard-scape materials. These materials include brightly colored mulch, large boulders, decomposed granite pathways, recycled pavers, and a dry creek river rock bed. These materials provide a permeable surface that still allows water to reach the soil and enables water retention for the plants.



Benefits of Mulch

Using mulch provides a low maintenance and cost effective way to maintain a beautiful and healthy garden. Mulch balances soil temperatures by keeping soils cooler in summer and warmer in winter, and decomposes into compost over time to feed the soil food web. Weed growth is also reduced, and any weeds that do appear will be easier to pull. Mulch also protects plants from soil-borne plant diseases, improves drainage, encourages better root growth, and reduces evaporation, erosion, and compaction. There are many different types of mulches, both organic and inorganic. Some organic materials include bark, straw, recycled wood clips, and tree leaves. Examples of inorganic materials include rocks, polypropylene plastic, or jute netting. Since organic mulches will eventually decompose, reapplying a one to two inch layer of fresh mulch every six to twelve months will keep your garden looking clean and weed free.

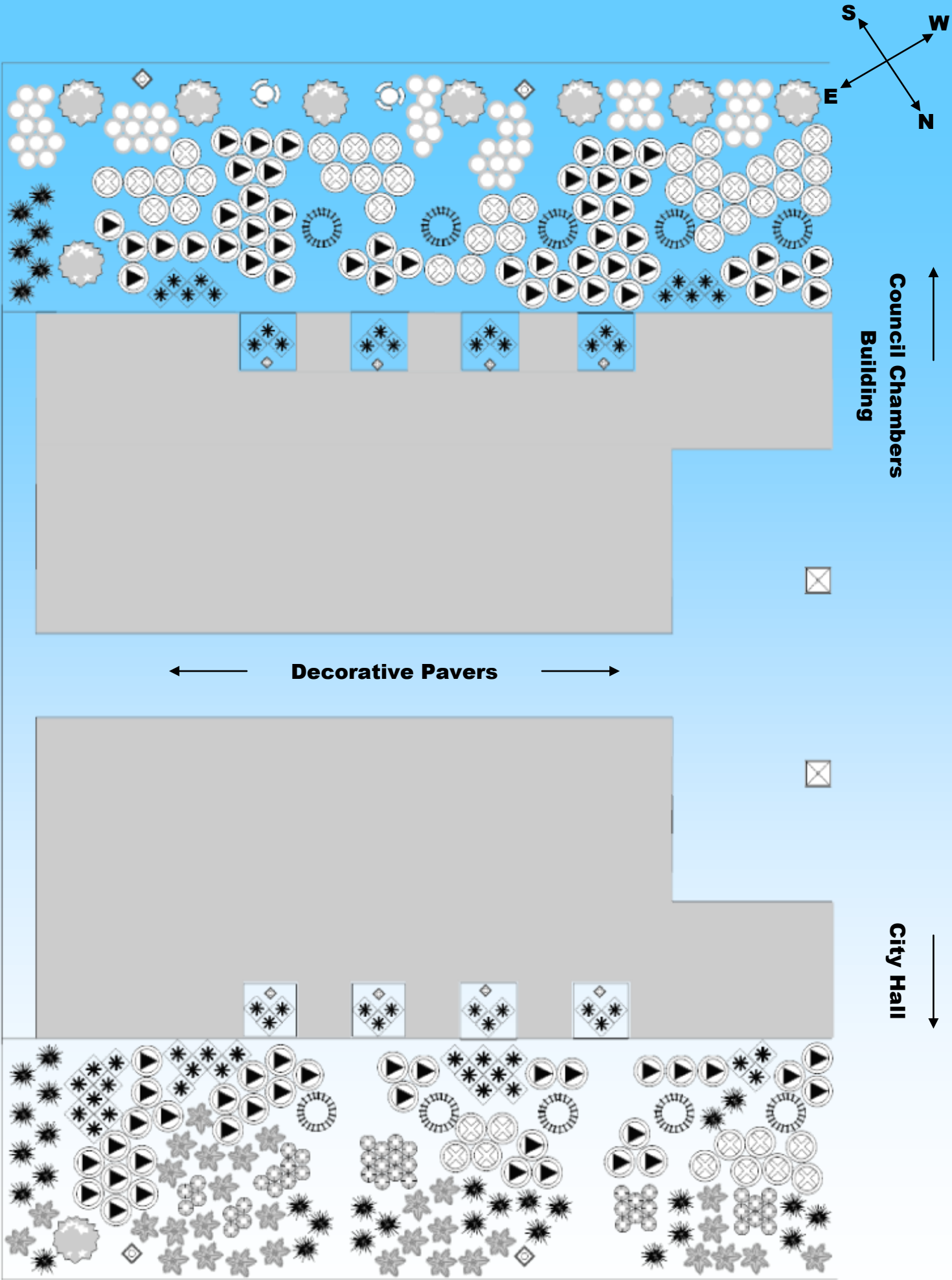


Permeable Hardscape

Installing permeable hard-scapes into your landscape saves water and adds versatility to your garden. They are also environmentally friendly by allowing water to percolate through to the soil, which is great for filtration and keeping storm water on-site to reduce urban flooding. Commonly used materials include stepping stones, decomposed granite, natural rock pavers, and bricks. Set bricks and pavers in sand or base rock instead of mortar when constructing a large area to allow for percolation. To be even more sustainable and save money, use recycled materials such as reclaimed or repurposed brick, flagstone, pavers, and boulders.

Symbol:	Code:	Botanical Name:	Common Name:
	AP	Arctostaphylos 'Pacific Mist'	Pacific Mist Manzanita
	AS	Arctostaphylos 'John Dourley'	John Dourley Manzanita
	BP	Baccharis pilularis 'Pigeon Point'	Dwarf Coyote Bush
	KU	Kniphofia uvaria	Red Hot Poker
	LS	Lantana sellowiana	Trailing Lantana
	MP	Myoporum parvifolium 'Tucson'	Creeping Myoporum

Peak Ave.



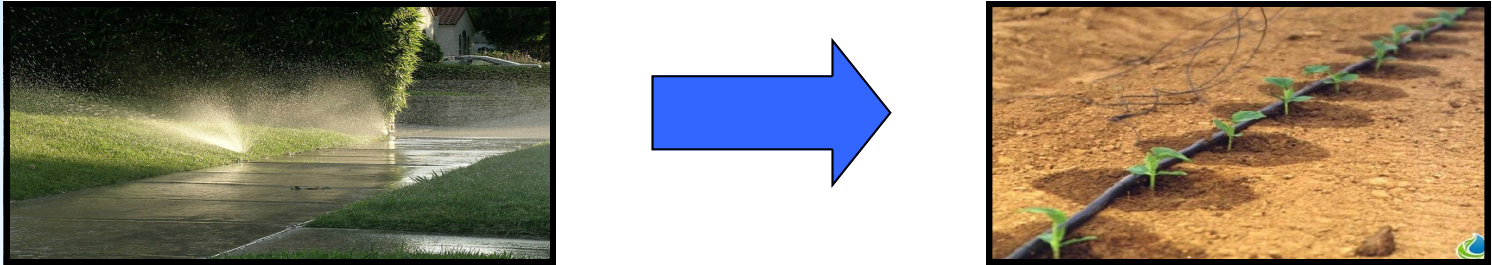
Environmental Health

Establishing a drought tolerant landscape is healthy both for the environment and the community. Using native plants re-establishes a habitat for wildlife such as birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. A drought tolerant landscape also assists in creating a sustainable landscape. A sustainable landscape incorporates practices and materials that work harmoniously with local climate and soils, is adaptive to the local rainfall patterns, and can thrive with minimal watering. A sustainable landscape will also require little to no mowing or the use of harsh pesticides and fertilizers that can runoff into the storm drains and pollute local water systems.

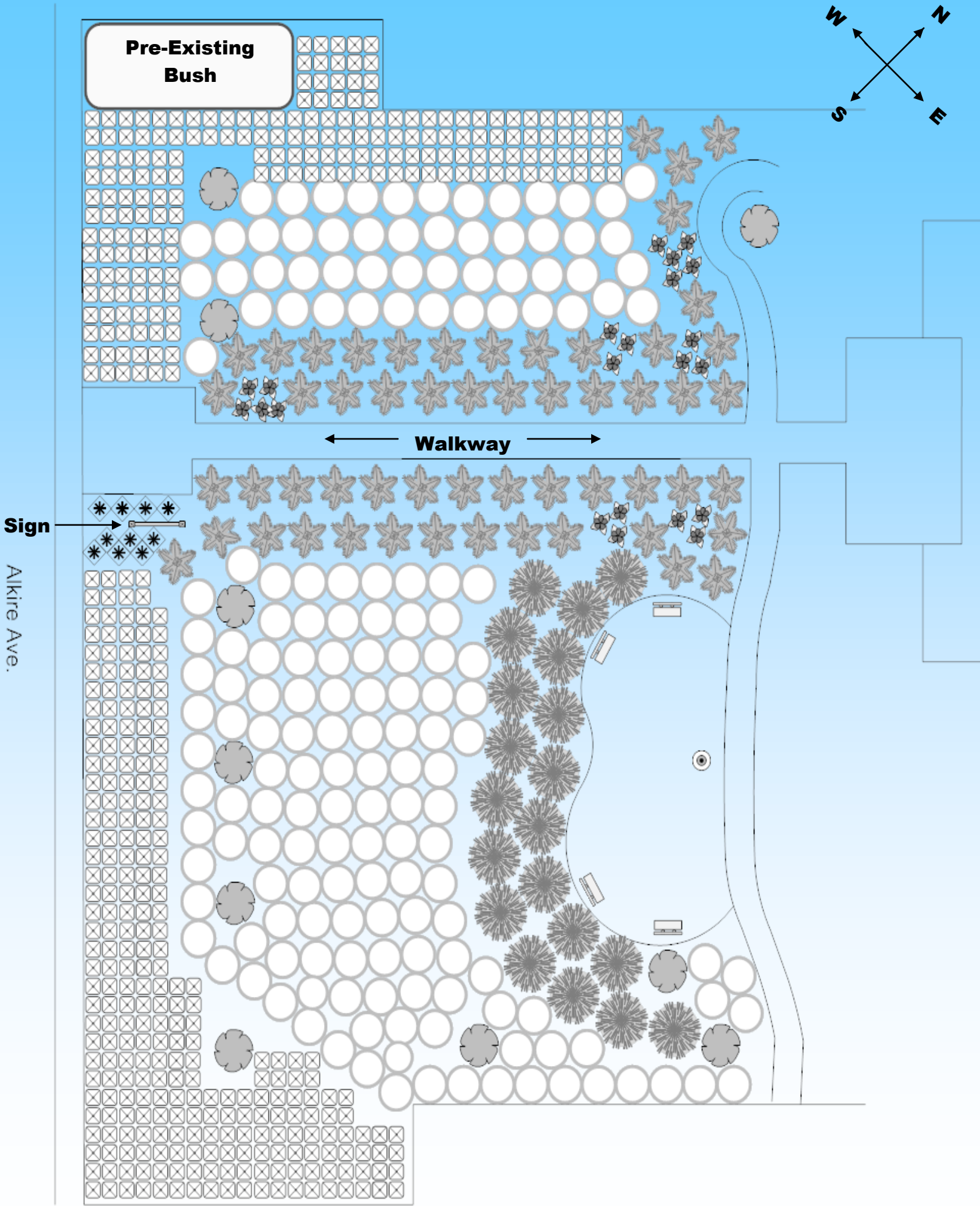




























Drip Irrigation

Installing drip irrigation can assist in keeping your garden from being overwatered. Over-watering not only wastes water, it also suffocates roots and promotes fungal diseases. The best way to water your landscape is to group your plants together with other plants of similar watering needs. This will assist in providing the right amount of water to the correct area of your garden. Drip systems apply water slowly and directly to the roots of the plants. This deep soaking encourages roots to utilize moisture in the ground, enables a plant to thrive between watering, cuts off excess water for weeds, and reduces and eliminates excess water runoff.



Symbol:	Code:	Botanical Name:	Common Name:
	BP	Baccharis pilularis 'Pigeon Point'	Dwarf Coyote Bush
	CH	Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry
	CO	Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud
	DG	Diets grandiflora 'Variegata'	Striped Fortnight Lily
	KG	Kurapia groundcover	Kurapia Groundcover
	LS	Lantana sellowiana	Trailing Lantana
	MA	Mahonia aquifolium 'Orange Flame'	Oregon Grape Holly
	MP	Myoporum parvifolium 'Tucson'	Creeping Myoporum
	MR	Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass



Symbol:	Code:	Botanical Name:	Common Name:	Symbol:	Code:	Botanical Name:	Common Name:
	AD	Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'	Howard McMinn Manzanita		MJ	Mimulus 'Jelly Bean Red'	Jelly Bean Red Monkeyflower
	AE	Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'	Emerald Carpet Manzanita		MP	Muoporum parvifolium 'White'	Creeping Myoporum
	AS	Arctostaphylos 'Sunset'	Sunset Manzanita		MR	Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass
	CC	Carpenteria californica	Bush Anemone		PB	Pennisetum 'Little Bunny'	Dwarf Fountain Grass
	CO	Cercis occidentals	Western Redbud		RC	Romneya coulteri	Matilija Poppy
	FC	Frageria chiloensis*	Sand Strawberry		SB	Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue Eyed Grass
	FM	Festuca rubra "Molate"	Red Fescue		SC	Salvia clevelandii	Cleveland Sage
	FR	Festuca rubra	Point Joe Blue Fescue		SL	Salvia leucophylla 'Pozo Blue'	Pozo Blue Sage
	GE	Garrya eliptica 'Evie'	Coast Silk Tassel		SP	Salvia leucophylla 'Point Sal'	Purple Leaf Sage
	ID	Iris douglasiana	Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris		SY	Salvia leucophylla 'Amethyst Bluff'	Purple Leaf Sage
	KM	Koeleria macrantha	June Grass		SS	Sedum spurium	Dragon's Blood Stonecrop
	MA	Mahonia aquifolium	Oregon Grape		TS	Thymus serphyllum 'Pink Chintz'	Creeping Pink Thyme
	MG	Mimulus 'Jelly Bean Gold'	Jelly Bean Gold Monkeyflower		YW	Yucca whipplei	Foothill Yucca

